

It is a good day for Liberty.

When I went to the NRA convention I put the “Do not disturb sign on my hotel door. The next morning, I found it had been changed to “Already deeply disturbed.” This is the standard for having your guns taken under these new “Red Flag Laws.” We do not have a Red Flag law in Missouri, not yet.

A client had a hearing on his FFL revocation before the ATF. The evidence showed that mistakes had been made on the 4473's involving a Tokarev pistol and a couple of rifles. All three firearms had been recorded by the ATF as .762 caliber. This caliber is 3/4 inch in diameter and illegal for civilians other than for shotguns. This was not the problem; there were clerical errors on the form. The inspector saw 7.62 mm and wrote it down as caliber. If my clients had done so, it would have been a mistake endangering his FFL. To run a gun shop, one needs the mind of a Certified Public Accountant. The owner's bookkeeping involves gun inventory instead of money. It requires a computer program to ensure that the forms are filled out correctly.

When I was in Indianapolis for the Convention everyone was very polite. Put 80,000-gun owners in a city and everyone gets very polite. An armed society is a polite society.

In Missouri it is possible to be sentenced to a “suspended imposition of sentence” an SIS. This result means that the lucky Missouri defendant has not been convicted. After completing probation, he is released and does not have a criminal record; at least in theory. The information remains in government computers and is accessible by the government. Kansas does not respect our SIS result. Kansas considers it to be a conviction. Missourians with an SIS have gone hunting in Kansas and ended up convicted for being a felon in possession under Kansas law. This seems to be an obvious violation of the full faith and credit clause of the US Constitution. The Kansas courts have considered this several times and disagreed.

I have a switchblade case. Some years ago, the illegal weapons law was changed. The prior law made switchblades illegal, a Class A misdemeanor. Under the new law switchblades are a Class C felony, but only if also possessed under federal law. This means that one does not commit a state crime unless the knife is possessed on federal property. I do not think state courts have jurisdiction for actions taken on federal property. That is a different case. My case involves a man charged with mere possession of a switchblade on state property. The legislature continues its glorious tradition of convoluted statutes. One must read this statute twice, slowly, to understand it. When I explained the statute, in a motion to dismiss, the prosecution continued to prosecute. The judge denied my motion and would not say why. Further proceedings wait. Such actions are why I have a job.

There are many city ordinances against switchblades. I advise against carrying them. One might enter a Post Office which is federal jurisdiction. So is the Corp of Engineer land around Smithville Lake. So is the Arch in St. Louis. Even when they are not illegal, they gather more attention than is necessary. I know. People will say that if they do not exercise their right to switchblades it will go away. The contrary has been our history. Switchblades were illegal, now they are legal. Political action determines what is legal or remains legal.

The definition of switchblade often includes gravity knives and may include butterfly knives. There is some magnificently obscure language which might be an attempt at describing the action of butterfly knives.

My assistant put me on to a You Tube video of a band called “The Hu.” “Hu” is a Mongolian root word for “human.” They are not like “The Who.” They are a Mongolian version of a heavy metal biker band. When I first heard them, I did not know the lyrics but the message was clear; “Pray we are on your side.” The lyrics are even better. They are to the effect of “If you come after us, we have something for you, You will not like it.”

I am often asked about the legality of assisted opening knives; are they switchblades? My answer is clear; “I don't know.” They do not open by pressure to a button or other device as in the switchblade definition. They open part-way by manipulating a stud or part of the blade. A spring then opens them the rest of the way. Switchblades are often called “automatic” knives. Assisted opening may be called “semi-automatic” knives.

Some people think that a knife is not a switchblade if the blade comes out the front instead of the side. They are wrong. If the blade comes out by pressure to a button or other device, they are switchblades.

I have been asked about registering guns that have been inherited. I don't do will or estates and trusts (other than gun trusts). First, there is no registration in Missouri. There is no process

or mechanism to register guns in Missouri. The 4473 only applies to gun shops. The probate process shows who inherits the estate's guns. Guns have notoriously disappeared from estates. Heirs appear with old and undocumented promises from the deceased. Often the heir with access to the deceased's home will report the body but proclaim unconvincing ignorance of the location of valuables. A will or gun trust will reduce these problems. If it is not in writing it did not happen. Small estates valued at less than \$50,000 can be processed informally and cheaply. Consult an attorney. There are forms sold on the internet which purport to be cheap wills. As in everything you get what you pay for. Such forms are notorious for being incomplete and vague. Both elements cause no end of trouble probating an estate. If you want to torture your heirs, buy these forms.

There has been a complaint about the beard growing contest. Some point out that women are incapable of growing beards and therefore the contest is sexually discriminatory. I pointed out that some Asian males cannot grow beards, so it is not sexually discriminatory. They replied "racist" and things went downhill. I found a solution. Today people are classified on what they feel they are, not on what they actually are. If members want to feel they are growing a beard that is good enough.

A range in Oklahoma posted a sign reading, "No Muslims allowed." There was a lawsuit of course. They finally did the smart thing and settled by removing the sign. They put up a new sign excluding members of hate groups such as Hamas, the KKK and others. This could be a very lengthy sign. The usual suspects declare that they hate us. As our friend Alan Korwin of Bloomfield Press says, "Hate is a destructive emotion."

My campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination proceeds apace. Since I declared my candidacy an obscure New York City mayor has joined the competition. I stand out as the only candidate who is pro-gun rights. This alone should guarantee me fawning attention of the major media.

A ShotSpotter gunshot detection system tells the Kansas City Police that 360 shots were fired from a single address last New Year's Eve. Every one of those bullets had to come down somewhere. We are devoted to the safe use of firearms. Every time there is an accidental or stupid discharge our rights are hurt.

We shall overcome.